

Appendix D

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUNDING CRITERIA

The Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act of 1998, Section 4(b)(3)(ii) allows money from the Special Account to be expended for:

“ . . . capital improvements at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and other areas administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Clark County, and the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area.”

The Act limits the amount available for capital improvements to not more than 25% of the Special Account in any fiscal year, determined without taking into account amounts deposited under the Santini-Burton provisions.

The area covered by the capital improvement provision is 6.1 million acres managed by four different agencies: the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service. Each agency has a different congressional mandate yet all have come together locally to share a common vision for the overall Clark County area within individual legislative constraints. Existing infrastructure in all four jurisdictions is old and woefully inadequate to meet present-day demands and standards. The existing infrastructure needs to be re-capitalized and new facilities must be built to meet increased visitation and the changing needs of a diversified public.

Capital improvement projects may include repair or rehabilitation of existing infrastructure, new construction, or improvements needed to protect resource values. All projects that are submitted for funding consideration must conform with approved management plans for the Federal unit involved. Each project should materially contribute to effective resource protection, the visitor experience and/or improved unit operations. Since the capital improvement needs of the four Federal agencies are great and funding is limited, the funding priorities need to incorporate a strong cost management system and ethic. It is with this philosophical concept in mind that the following strategic goals, minimum criteria, and rating criteria were developed.

Eligibility

Capital Improvement projects may be nominated by any of the four Federal land management agencies (BLM, FWS, FS, and NPS).

Strategic Goal for Capital Improvements

Refurbish existing facilities and construct new facilities to:

- Provide safe facilities for visitors and employees;

- Provide more and better visitor facilities to meet increasing demand levels and changing demographics;
- Provide more and better education opportunities (environmental, historical, cultural, scientific);
- Protect the integrity of significant resource values or improve the quality of the environment; and
- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of natural resource management activities.

Minimum Criteria

- The project is located within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, or other areas administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Clark County and the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area; and
- The administering agency has secured sufficient funding (or in-kind contributions) to operate and maintain the facility for the foreseeable future.

Ranking Criteria

1. Provides safe facilities for visitors and employees Points 10

Factors:

- The nature of the safety concern
- Urgency and risk
- Number of visitors and employees affected
- Nature of remedy and alternatives

2. Provides more and better visitor facilities to meet increasing demands and changing demographics. Points 10

Factors:

- The nature of the project
- Demand for the facility and regional significance
- Number and/or demographics of visitors

3. Provides more and better information and education services/opportunities. Points 10

Factors:

- The nature of the project
- Demand and regional significance
- Number and/or demographics of visitors

4. Protects the integrity of significant resource values or improves the quality of the environment. Points 10

Factors:

- Number and significance of resource values involved (including cultural, historical, natural and scientific values)
- Nature of the project and relative significance of desired outcomes
- Nature of the threat to the resource values and urgency for action

5. Improves the efficiency and effectiveness of management activities. Points 10

Factors:

- The nature of the project and desired outcomes
- Significance of the impacts in consideration of the investment required
- Urgency for action

6. Involves partnership in the funding, design, construction, operation, and/or maintenance (other than SNPLMA sources). Only confirmed partnerships (as opposed to potential partnerships) are eligible for consideration. Points 10

Factors:

- Number, nature, and relative significance of funding partnerships

7. Has the support of State, local governments, interested parties and/or other agencies. Points 10

Factors:

- Agencies and/or other interested parties that support or oppose the project
- Nature of support or opposition
- How support or opposition is demonstrated

8. Other Considerations: Points 10

Factors:

- Urgency (emergency situations)
- Spatial distribution of projects
- Projects designed to address changing demographics

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 80